

SYCL & DPC++: Improvements to the SYCL Programming Model

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Nevin @ ANL

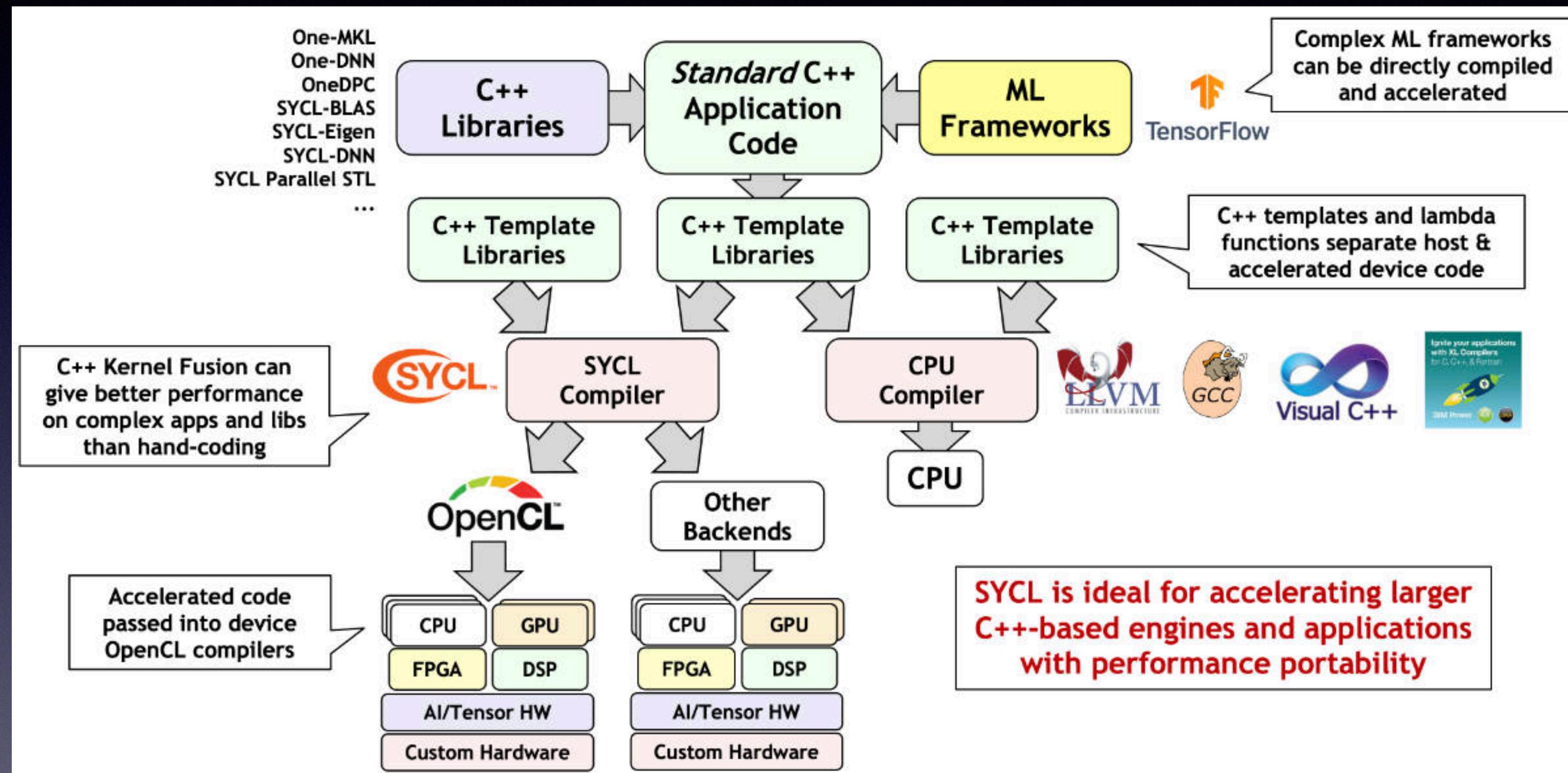
- SYCL / DPC++ backend for Kokkos
 - Initially targeting Aurora
- SYCL Committee Representative
- Vice Chair, Library Evolution Working Group Incubator (WG21 / C++ Committee)

Assumptions

- Some familiarity with SYCL 1.2.1
- Some familiarity with C++17

What is SYCL?

- Open standard
 - Khronos Group
- Parallel computing
- Heterogenous computing
 - Multiple devices involving CPUs, GPUs, DSPs, FPGAs, etc.



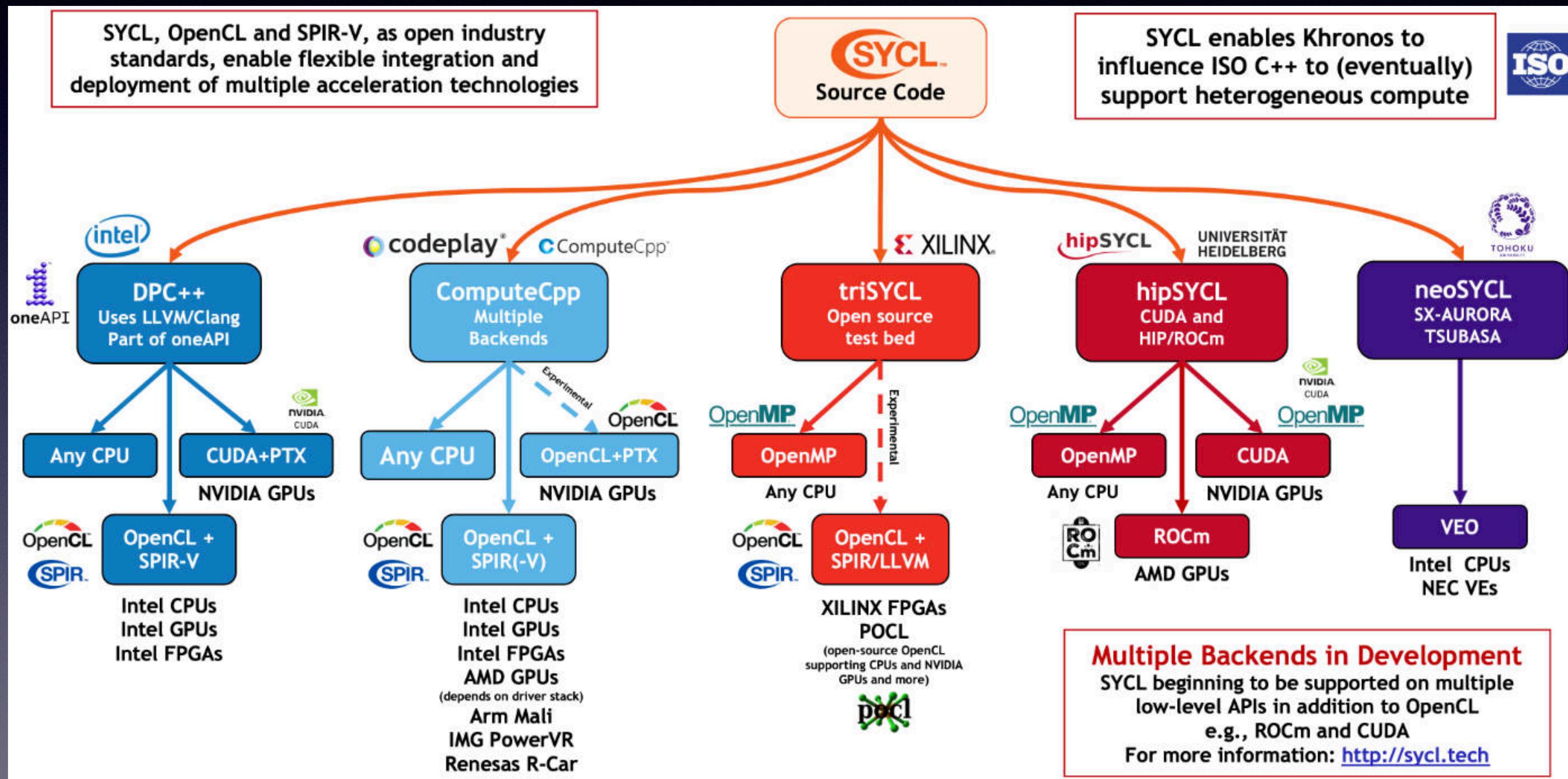
Why not just C++?

- C++ supports parallel computing
 - Execution policies, algorithms, atomics, etc.
- C++ has no notion of heterogeneous computing (multiple devices)
 - Heck, no notion of multiple processes on a single device
 - It may take decades to add these notions

What is the relation between SYCL & C++?

- SYCL is where we develop parallel and heterogenous abstractions
 - Long term goal: Standard C++ adopt many of these abstractions
- SYCL adopts Standard C++ features
 - Easier to develop code in SYCL
 - Including those added to C++ for other domains
 - E.g., Class Template Argument Deduction (deduction guides)

What hardware does SYCL support?



What is the relation between DPC++ & SYCL?

- DPC++ is the Intel implementation of SYCL with extensions
 - Based on Clang (Open Source)
 - Compiler for Aurora
 - A place for Intel to explore and prototype new features for SYCL
 - DPC++ -> SYCL -> C++

SYCL 2020

- Released February 9th, 2021
- C++17 baseline
- Moving away from being OpenCL™ - centric
 - `#include <sycl/sycl.hpp>`
 - **namespace** `sycl` instead of **namespace** `cl::sycl`
- Over forty new features...

Features

- Unified Shared Memory (USM)
- Parallel Reductions
- Atomics
- Device Copyable
- Unnamed Lambdas
- Class Template Argument Deduction (CTAD) / Deduction Guides

Unified Shared Memory (USM)

Unified Shared Memory (USM)

- Pointer based model
- Unified virtual address space
- An allocated pointer has the same value (object representation) on the host and on the device
 - Although there may be access restrictions when dereferencing

Unified Shared Memory (USM)

Allocation Type	Description	Accessible on host?	Accessible on device?	Located on
device	Allocations in device memory	X	√	device
host	Allocations in host memory	√	√	host
shared	Allocations shared between host and device	√	√	can migrate between host and device

Device Allocations

- Memory attached to device
- Not accessible on the host
 - If host needs access, must be explicitly copied via special memcpy calls

Host Allocations

- Resides on host
- Implicitly accessible on host and device
 - Device access to data over bus (e.g., PCI-E)
 - Slower than device allocations
- Rarely accessed data
- Large data sets

Shared Allocations

- Implicitly accessible on host and device
 - Data *can* migrate to where it is used on-demand
 - Could be implemented as device allocation
 - prefetch
 - Start the migration early
 - mem_advise

Context

- Allocations belong to a context
 - Device or set of devices
 - We can get the context from a queue
 - May not be useable across contexts
- Device allocations belong to a device

Data Movement (recap)

- Explicit
 - Special `memcpy` calls (`handler`, `queue`)
 - Fine-grained control
- Implicit
 - Host - data sent over bus (e.g., PCI-E)
 - Shared - migrated

Allocation Styles

- C
 - `malloc`, `aligned_alloc`, `malloc_host`, etc.
 - Specify size of the allocation
- C++
 - `template<typename T> T* malloc_host(...)`, etc.
 - Stateful C++17 allocators

USM vs. Buffers / Accessors

- USM Pointers
 - Very close to regular C++ programming
- Accessors
 - Implicitly builds data dependency DAG between kernels

Parallel Reductions

```

        buffer<int> valuesBuf{1024};
    {
        // Initialize buffer on the host with 0, 1, 2, 3, ..., 1023
        host_accessor a{valuesBuf};
        std::iota(a.begin(), a.end(), 0);
    }

    // Buffers with just 1 element to get the reduction results
    int sumResult = 0;
    buffer<int> sumBuf{&sumResult, 1};
    int maxResult = 0;
    buffer<int> maxBuf{&maxResult, 1};

    myQueue.submit([&](handler& cgh) {
        // Input values to reductions are standard accessors
        auto inputValues = valuesBuf.get_access<access_mode::read>(cgh);

        // Create temporary objects describing variables with reduction semantics
        auto sumReduction = reduction(sumBuf, cgh, plus<>());
        auto maxReduction = reduction(maxBuf, cgh, maximum<>());

        // parallel_for performs two reduction operations
        // For each reduction variable, the implementation:
        // - Creates a corresponding reducer
        // - Passes a reference to the reducer to the lambda as a parameter
        cgh.parallel_for(range<1>{1024}, sumReduction, maxReduction,
                        [=](id<1> idx, auto& sum, auto& max) {
            // plus<>() corresponds to += operator, so sum can be
            // updated via += or combine()
            sum += inputValues[idx];

            // maximum<>() has no shorthand operator, so max can
            // only be updated via combine()
            max.combine(inputValues[idx]);
        });
    });

    // sumBuf and maxBuf contain the reduction results once the kernel completes
    assert(maxBuf.get_host_access()[0] == 1023 &&
           sumBuf.get_host_access()[0] == 523776);

```

- reduction is a function that returns an *unspecified* reduction object
 - Reduction variable (`sumBuf`, `maxBuf`)
 - Reduction operator / function object (`plus<>()`, `maximum<>()`)
 - Optional identity
 - This is why we use `auto`

```

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```

- When passed to `parallel_for`
- Constructs an appropriate *unspecified* reducer object (`sum`, `max`)
- Why we use `auto`
 - Generic / polymorphic lambda
 - templated `operator()`
 - Even though we only need one (monomorphic)
 - Don't want to specify the type

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Reducer

```
// Exposition only
template <typename T, typename BinaryOperation, int Dimensions, /* unspecified */>
class reducer {

    reducer(const reducer&) = delete;
    reducer& operator(const reducer&) = delete;

    /* Only available if Dimensions == 0 */
    void combine(const T& partial);

    /* Only available if Dimensions > 0 */
    __unspecified__ &operator[](size_t index) const;

    /* Only available if identity value is known */
    T identity() const;

};
```

Reducer

- *Unspecified* type
- Intermediate values cannot be inspected
- Can only be updated via `combine`
- `operator[]` returns a *different unspecified* reducer object with dimensionality of one less than `Dimensions`
- For known binary operations, synonyms for `combine()` are provided

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};
```

- Safe to call `combine` concurrently
- Reduction variable has the result when the kernel finishes executing
- The combination order of multiple reducers is unspecified

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```

- Because sumReduction uses `std::plus<>`, `operator+=` is defined to be a synonym for `combine`
 - If `T` is an integral type, also `operator++`
 - Similar synonyms for `multiples<>`, `bit_and<>`, `bit_or<>`, `bit_xor<>`
 - *if there wasn't a bug in the SYCL 2020 standard...*

```

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```

Atomicals

Atomic support in SYCL 1.2.1

- Modeled on C++11 atomic class
 - Only relaxed because of OpenCL
 - Owns the data
 - Over-constraint
 - Never non-atomic access

C++11

- No notion of non-owning interfaces
 - Raw pointers non-owning by convention
 - E.g., interfaces with strings

```
void A(std::string const&) { /* ... */ } // owning; allocation?  
void A(char const*, size_t) { /* ... */ } // non-owning; more efficient
```

C++17

- `string_view`
 - Non-owning reference to string data
 - Pointer and a size
 - Efficient
 - Great vocabulary type for interfaces
 - Separation of concerns - only concerned with operations

Non-owning Interfaces

- C++20
 - `atomic_ref`
 - `span`
 - Non-owning reference to contiguous data
 - Ranges
- C++23 (maybe)
 - `function_ref`
 - `mdspan`

atomic_ref

- Non-owning atomic access to data
- Modeled on C++20 `atomic_ref` class
 - SYCL only required to support `relaxed`
 - May support `acq_rel` and `seq_cst`

atomic_ref C++ vs. SYCL

```
namespace std { template<class T> struct atomic_ref {
    T load(memory_order = memory_order::seq_cst) const noexcept;
    //...
};}

namespace sycl { template <class T, memory_order DefaultOrder, memory_scope DefaultScope, access
::address_space Space = access::address_space::generic_space>
struct atomic_ref {
    T load(memory_order order = default_read_order, memory_scope scope = DefaultScope) const noexcept;
    //...
};}
```

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    //...
};}
```

- C++
 - T is trivially copyable
- SYCL
 - int, unsigned int, long, unsigned long, long long, unsigned long long, float, double
 - No support for large types (e.g., complex<double>)
 - Might require globally accessible lock table

atomic_ref C++ vs. SYCL

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namespace std { template<class T> struct atomic_ref {
    T load(memory_order = memory_order::seq_cst) const noexcept;
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    //...
};}
```

- `memory_order`
- More general and useful in heterogeneous computing than safe `seq_cst`
- `default_read_order` or `default_write_order` may be different
 - `DefaultOrder==acq_rel -> default_read_order==acquire`

atomic_ref C++ vs. SYCL

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    T load(memory_order = memory_order::seq_cst) const noexcept;
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    //...
};}
```

- `memory_scope`
 - Memory ordering constraints
 - `work_item`, `sub_group`, `work_group`, `device`, `system`

atomic_ref C++ vs. SYCL

```
namespace std { template<class T> struct atomic_ref {
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    //...
};}
```

- address_space
 - generic_space, global_space, local_space
 - Override default of generic_space for performance tuning

atomic_ref C++ vs. SYCL

```
namespace std { template<class T> struct atomic_ref {
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    //...
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::address_space Space = access::address_space::generic_space>
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    T load(memory_order order = default_read_order, memory_scope scope = DefaultScope) const noexcept;
    //...
};}
```

Device Copyable

Device Copyable

- How do we copy objects in C++?
 - Copy constructor / copy assignment operator
 - Running code
 - Code may access both source and destination

Device Copyable

- Can we do the same for inter-device copying?
 - Non-trivial copy constructor / copy assignment operator
 - Where would the code run?
 - May not be legal to access both source and destination
 - About all we can do is copy the bytes (object representation) that make up the object

Device Copyable

- C++ trivially copyable types
 - Used as a proxy for types where we can copy the bytes

C++ Trivially Copyable

- All base classes and non-static members are trivially copyable
- Has at least one public non-deleted copy/move ctor/assign
- If it has a copy/move ctor/assign, it must be public and defaulted
- Has a public defaulted destructor

C++ Trivially Copyable

- Conflated into trivially copyable
 - Bitwise copyable
 - Layout
- Trivially copyable is too restrictive (not necessary)
 - Not sufficient either
 - Member functions can throw exceptions

C++ Trivially Copyable

- There are standard library types which are not necessarily trivially copyable for historical reasons
 - `pair`, `tuple` (even when the types it contains are trivially copyable)
 - And because layout is conflated, changing would be ABI break
- And some which are not yet guaranteed to be trivially copyable
 - `span`, `basic_string_view`
 - Although these might be by C++23 due to paper P2251

C++ Trivially Copyable

- If a lambda captures a non trivially copyable type
 - The lambda (which is just a struct) is not trivially copyable
 - The lambda cannot be implicitly copied to the kernel
- Lead to some interesting workarounds in Kokkos and RAJA
 - Manually copy the bytes to the device
 - Technically violates C++ object model (lifetime of objects)

Device Copyable

- Types where bitwise copy for inter-device copying has correct semantics
- Unspecified whether or not copy/move ctor/assign is called to do the inter-device copying
- Unspecified whether or not the destructor is called on the device
 - Since it must effectively have no effect on the device
- User specializable trait to indicate a type is device copyable
 - Specialize at your own risk

Device Copyable

- `sycl::is_device_copyable`
 - Defaults to `std::is_trivially_copyable`
 - Specialized for `array`, `pair`, `tuple`, `optional`, `variant`
 - When they contain all device copyable types
 - `array`, `optional`, `variant` already trivially copyable when they contain all trivially copyable types
 - Recursive definition: need to extend it to all device copyable types
 - Specialized for `span`, `basic_string_view`

Unnamed Lambdas

Unnamed Lambdas

```
cgh.parallel_for<class kernel_name>(range<1>{1024}, [=](id<1> idx) {  
    writeResult[idx] = idx[0];  
});
```

Unnamed Lambdas

```
cgh.parallel_for<class kernel_name>(range<1>{1024}, [=](id<1> idx) {  
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});
```

- Weird but valid C++ syntax
 - Forward declaration of a function local class
 - SYCL 1.2.1
 - Name every kernel
 - Unique global name for toolchains with separate device compiler

Unnamed Lambdas

```
cgh.parallel_for<class kernel_name>(range<1>{1024}, [=](id<1> idx) {  
    writeResult[idx] = idx[0];  
});
```

- SYCL 2020
 - No need to specify it
 - Compiler will internally generate a unique name
 - May want to specify it to help with debugging

Unnamed Lambdas

```
cgh.parallel_for  
    writeResult[idx] = idx[0];  
});  
  
( range<1>{1024}, [=](id<1> idx) {
```

Unnamed Lambdas

```
cgh.parallel_for(range<1>{1024}, [=](id<1> idx) {  
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});
```

Class Template Argument Deduction (CTAD) / Deduction Guides

C++ Class Template Argument Deduction (CTAD)

```
std::pair<int, double> p(2, 3.);
```

Class Template Argument Deduction (CTAD)

```
std::pair<int, double> p(2, 3.);
```

- C++17
- Template parameters can be deduced from the arguments
 - No need to specify them when declaring non-member variables
 - All parameters must be deduced
 - Implicit and user-defined ones

```
template<typename T1, typename T2>
pair(T1, T2) -> pair<T1, T2>;
```

C++ Class Template Argument Deduction (CTAD)

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C++ Class Template Argument Deduction (CTAD)

```
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```

- Downside
 - Still need to know the exact type (with template parameters) to declare member variables

CTAD

- We added user-defined deduction guides to
 - `id`, `vec`, `buffer`, `multi_ptr`, `range`

Deduction guides for id

```
template <int dimensions = 1>
class id {
    // ...
};

// Deduction guides
id(size_t) -> id<1>;
id(size_t, size_t) -> id<2>;
id(size_t, size_t, size_t) -> id<3>;
```

- Deduction guides not necessarily templates themselves

CTAD for accessors

- Added tagged constructors for accessors
 - Tag is just a (usually empty) type
 - May be a templated type
 - Variable of that type
 - So we can pass it by name

```
struct Tag_t {  
    explicit Tag_t() = default; // disallow naked {} syntax  
};  
inline constexpr Tag_t tag{};
```

CTAD for accessors

```
buffer<int, 2, buffer_allocator> b1{range<2>{2, 5}};  
accessor aA{b1, write_only, noinit};
```

CTAD for accessors

```
buffer<int, 2, buffer_allocator> b1{range<2>{2, 5}};
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```

- `write_only`
 - Variable of type `mode_tag_t<access::mode::write>`
 - Call tagged constructor via deduction guide

```
template <typename dataT, int dimensions,
          access_mode accessMode =
            (std::is_const_v<dataT> ? access_mode::read
             : access_mode::read_write),
          target accessTarget = target::device,
          access::placeholder isPlaceholder = access::placeholder::false_t>
class accessor {
//...
    template <typename AllocatorT, typename TagT>
    accessor(buffer<dataT, dimensions, AllocatorT>& bufferRef, TagT tag,
             const property_list& propList = {});
};
```

CTAD for accessors

```
buffer<int, 2, buffer_allocator> b1{range<2>{2, 5}};  
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```

- aA is really

```
accessor<int, 2, access_mode::write, target::device, access::placeholder::true_t>
```

CTAD for accessors

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buffer<int, 2, buffer_allocator> b1{range<2>{2, 5}};  
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- Bonus CTAD
 - range

Resources and References

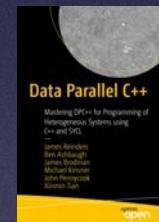
(Where I shamelessly got information and examples from)

Resources and References

- SYCL 2020 Specification

 <https://www.khronos.org/registry/SYCL/specs/sycl-2020/pdf/sycl-2020.pdf>

- Data Parallel C++ (Reinders, Ashbaugh, Brodman, Kinsner, Pennycook, Tian)



<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-1-4842-5574-2>

- Web

 <https://sycl.tech>

 <https://www.khronos.org/blog/>

An aerial photograph of the Argonne National Laboratory complex, showing numerous buildings, roads, and green spaces.

Q & A



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